

**AGRICULTURAL/STANDARDS INSPECTOR**  
**SENIOR AGRICULTURAL/STANDARDS INSPECTOR**  
**SUPERVISING AGRICULTURAL/STANDARDS INSPECTOR**

**Class No. 005392**  
**Class No. 005393**  
**Class No. 005394**

**DEFINITION:**

To perform technical inspection, professional and related work in the enforcement of agricultural and/or weights and measures laws, regulations and policies for consumer and agricultural industry protection; and to perform related work.

**DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:**

The Agricultural/Standards Inspector class series is a professional class series responsible for enforcing laws and regulations contained in the California Food and Agricultural Code, the Business and Professions Code and the California Code of Regulations. Positions in these classes are allocated only to the Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures.

**Agricultural/Standards Inspector:**

This is the entry and first working level class of the series. Incumbents are closely supervised pending State licenses. Once licenses are obtained, incumbents, under direct supervision, independently perform inspections and conduct investigations in their areas of licensure and assist higher-level inspectors in other areas. As incumbents obtain licenses, they are given additional inspection responsibilities for related specialties. Incumbents must obtain at least one (1) license within 12 months of appointment and must obtain a second license in the same track within 24 months of appointment. (If the incumbent already possesses all the licenses in one track, the additional license(s) must be obtained in a different track.)

**Senior Agricultural/Standards Inspector:**

This is the journey level class. Incumbents, under general supervision, must possess three (3) agricultural/weights and measures licenses in one track. Inspectors in this class perform inspections and conduct investigations independently in the areas they hold licenses in, and assist in other areas.

**Supervising Agricultural/Standards Inspector:**

This is the supervisory level class in the Agricultural/Standards Inspector series. Incumbents, under general direction, are responsible for training, supervising and evaluating staff and the work of various inspection, investigation and enforcement projects/programs. Incumbents must meet eligibility requirements to take the examination for Deputy Sealer and/or Deputy Commissioner licenses.

**EXAMPLES OF DUTIES :**

Conducts field surveys, inspections and investigations in areas applicable to the Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures including: commodity regulation, pest prevention and plant and pesticide regulation, worker health and safety, environment monitoring, weight, measurement and product verification, and integrated pest management; investigates and determines commodity fitness and recommends remedial measures used in the regulation of the affected industry such as issuing certificates of compliance, notices of noncompliance, certificates of phytosanitary conformance, or citations; orders reconditioning or destruction of commodities; disseminates agricultural and weights and measures policies, legal requirements, and information; advises and serves the general public, community groups, government agencies, and private industry; conducts studies on such things as crop statistics, natural disasters, illness investigations and endangered species; conducts follow-up inspections, and

investigations of complaints; prepares correspondence; testifies in court in prosecutions of violations; and collects money for services or materials provided.

#### **Senior Agricultural/Standards Inspector:**

All of the duties listed above and: prepares complex reports; may represent the department in public speaking engagements; and may provide technical guidance and training to lower classes in areas of licensure.

#### **Supervising Agricultural/Standards Inspector:**

All of the duties listed above and: organizes, directs and coordinates field surveys and inspections; establishes procedures and performance standards for unit; participates in hiring, counseling and discipline of subordinates; reviews the work of subordinates; develops work plans; resolves highly technical problems or questions; coordinates field results and data with the State to ensure program efforts maximize results and are in conformance with regulations, especially in pesticides; testifies as an expert witness in court proceedings; may assist in the preparation of Board letters, grant proposals, legislative analysis and official correspondence; and may represent department in the absence of the program's Deputy Sealer of Weights and Measures or Deputy Agricultural Commissioner.

#### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

Knowledge Level: T = Thorough; G = General; -- = Not Applicable

Classification Level: A = Ag/Stand Inspector  
SR = Senior Ag/Stand Inspector  
SPV= Supervising Ag/Stand Inspector

#### **Knowledge of:**

##### **A SR SPV**

T	T	T	Math, including algebra, geometry and statistics.
G	T	T	Insect, animal and disease pests and their control.
G	T	T	Types of crops grown and farming methods practiced in San Diego County.
G	T	T	General principles of plant growth and development.
G	T	T	Provisions of the California Food and Agricultural Code, California Code of Regulations - Title IV, Business and Professions Code, and related Federal laws and regulations in the functional areas of agricultural and weights and measures inspection and enforcement.
G	T	T	Rules of evidence preservation and courtroom procedures.
G	T	T	Departmental safety practices for the use and maintenance of equipment and use of various materials.
G	G	G	Basic computer skills in word-processing, spreadsheet, database, and presentation applications.
G	G	T	State regulations and departmental policies regarding use of various pesticides.
--	G	T	Supervision and training principles and techniques.
--	--	G	Program implementation and operations coordination and evaluation.

#### **Skills and Abilities to:**

The following apply to all classes:

- Read and understand technical material such as Federal, State and local laws, regulations and ordinances related to agriculture weights and measures.
- Maintain, collect and organize information from records, interviews or tests.
- Conduct investigations, collect background information, define problems, establish facts, draw valid conclusions, and make appropriate recommendations or decisions.
- Enforce laws, issue citations and notices of violation and use good judgment to make appropriate

recommendations for corrective action as conditions or studies warrant or permit.

- Recognize defects and maturity of fruit, production areas, and the relationships of one plant, insect, and animal to the environment and to each other.
- Use, calibrate and maintain scientific and precision measuring instruments and other technical equipment.
- Gather and preserve evidence during investigations observing both scientific and legal requirements.
- Coordinate work with other government agencies.
- Establish cooperative working relations with those contacted during the course of work.
- Write clear, concise, grammatically correct reports, letters and memoranda.
- Communicate effectively with others using tact, persuasion and effective negotiation strategies.
- Explain technical terms and inspection policies and procedures to lay persons.
- Organize work in an efficient order to meet close deadlines and departmental priorities.
- Operate a variety of County vehicles.

**Supervising Agricultural/Standards Inspector (in addition to the above):**

- Plan, coordinate, implement and evaluate project objectives and activities to meet identified goals.
- Supervise, train and oversee the work quality of subordinate personnel.
- Identify career and training needs, develop and deliver in-service training programs.
- Initiate and maintain liaison with State and local professional and political groups.
- Prepare complex reports, group presentations and proposals.
- Provide consultation and scientific explanations to County managers, professionals, legal advisors, and community leaders.
- The General Management System in principle and in practice.

**EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:**

Education, training and/or experience which clearly demonstrates possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. Examples of qualifying education/experience are:

**Agricultural/Standards Inspector:**

Qualification to take the licensing examination given by the State of California Department of Food and Agriculture for the County Agriculture Inspector or the County Weights and Measures Inspector. Those requirements are as follows:

1. Possession of one or more valid statewide, specific category licenses as a County Weights and Measures Inspector and/or County Agricultural Inspector; OR,
2. A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in agriculture, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, engineering, law enforcement, commerce, marketing, or closely related field; (work experience in any of the areas listed in number 3, may substitute for up to two (2) years of the required education on a year for year basis); OR,
3. At least 15 semester units of college-level coursework in the areas described above; AND, two (2) years of qualifying experience as follows: (a) enforcement of weights and measures or agricultural laws; (b) the inspection, maintenance, repair or installation of weighing or measuring devices or equipment; (c) consumer protection or resolution of consumer complaints in a public or private consumer affairs agency, law enforcement or investigation work in a Federal, State or local jurisdiction agency; (d) quality control or quantity control work in the production of consumer commodities. This experience must have been at a level comparable to County Weights and Measures Inspector or County Agricultural Inspector/Biologist.

**Senior Agricultural/Standards Inspector:**

Two (2) years of experience as an Agricultural/Standards Inspector with the County of San Diego or equivalent experience in another California County, State or local agency.

**Supervising Agricultural/Standards Inspector:**

1. One (1) year of experience as a Senior Agricultural/Standards Inspector with the County of San Diego; OR,
2. Three (3) years of experience as an Agricultural/Standards Inspector with the County of San Diego or equivalent experience in another California County, State or local agency.

**SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS:****License:**

A valid California Class C driver's license is required at time of appointment, and must be maintained throughout employment in this class, or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their personal vehicle. Some positions require a valid California Class B and/or A driver's license.

**Agricultural/Standards Inspector:** Must possess one (1) full license within 12 months of appointment and must possess two (2) full licenses in the same track within 24 months of appointment.

**Senior Agricultural/Standards Inspector:** Must possess three (3) full licenses at the time of appointment. The three (3) licenses must be within the same track listed below.

**Supervising Agricultural/Standards Inspector:** Must possess all Weights and Measures or Agricultural/Biology licenses at time of appointment.

TRACK I	TRACK II	TRACK III
– Weight Verification – Measurement Verification – Transaction and Product Verification	– Pesticide Regulation – Investigation and Environmental Monitoring – Integrated Pest Management	– Commodity Regulation – Pest Prevention and Plant Regulation – Integrated Pest Management

**Note:** Supervising Agricultural/Standards Inspector incumbents are to complete at least 40 hours of basic supervisory training within 12 months of appointment.

**Background Investigation:**

Must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness with no felony convictions. Misdemeanor convictions may be disqualifying depending on number, severity, and recency. Applicants will be subject to a thorough background check.

**Working Conditions:**

Overtime, evening and weekend work. Travel throughout San Diego County. Subject to noise, dust, chemicals, fuels, pesticides, hazardous materials and very hot or very wet environments. Must be able to wear protective equipment for such conditions. Must be able to lift and carry objects weighing at least 50 pounds. Presence of heart disease, high blood pressure, lung disease, respiratory problems, perforated eardrums or certain other medical conditions may interfere with using some protective safety equipment.

**Probationary Period:**

Incumbents appointed to permanent positions in these classes shall serve a probationary period of twelve (12) months. (Civil Service Rule 4.2.5).